FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

Neither side has yet gained full control and the conflict is spreading to all parts of the country, according to Arab sources cited by Riyadh radio 23 January. The radio's sources spoke of fierce fighting in Khurmaksar the previous day. Nevertheless, Aden radio announced that Aden international airport was opened to air traffic 23 January. The radio had earlier broadcast details of "confessions" by Hadi Ahmad Nasir, one of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters who surrendered after carrying out "barbaric acts." Hadi Ahmad Nasir said he had been "misled" by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who "fully shoulders the responsibility" for the destruction in the PDRY, the radio reported. As for the composition of the YSP leadership group opposed to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the radio noted activities by Salih Munassar al-Siyayli and Salim Salih Muhammad, and also cited a press editorial which maintained that the Political Bureau members who were subjected to the "physical liquidation attempt" are still alive. DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, however, told the UAE's *AL-KHALIJ that some YSP Political Bureau members were* killed and others were wounded during the events of 13 January. Sources in Moscow cited by *AL-KHALIJ* also revealed that the warring sides are trying to negotiate under the aegis of a four-member committee.

In another development, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir informed the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* that the PLO has abandoned its efforts to halt the fighting, WAKH reported. Al-Wazir explained that this decision resulted from opposition to PLO interference by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's opponents, who felt they were gaining the upper hand, and by the PDRY premier and foreign minister, who support the anti-'Ali Nasir group. Meanwhile, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's support for 'Ali Nasir's "legitimate leadership" during a telephone conversation with the YAR president reported by SANAA radio.

Radio broadcasts by 'Ali Nasir's side have not been monitored, despite Radio Monte Carlo's report that his faction has a radio which is broadcasting on an official frequency that has not been used for many years.

Libya

Libya had "nothing whatever" to do with the Vienna and Rome airport incidents, Col al-Qadhdhafi said in an interview with Vienna's *KURIER*. He also said there are no Palestinian training camps in Libya. Meanwhile, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said in a news conference broadcast by Tripoli television that "tens of thousands" of Arab, African, and Muslim youths are awaiting orders to come to Libya to be trained for "suicidal fedayeen operations." Maj Jallud charged that the U.S. "preoccupation" is to "liquidate Al-Qadhdhafi physically through an act of terrorism." Meanwhile, the "foreign colonies" of Banghazi decided "not to transfer outside Libya their 1-month salaries" in response to the U.S. freeze of Libyan assets, JANA reported.

Lebanon

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam affirmed Syria's support for implementing the tripartite agreement during a 23 January meeting with Elie Hubayqah, Damascus radio reported. The radio described Hubayqah by his former title, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee. Beirut radio said Hubayqah is expected to meet with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, and the radio also cited a press report that Hubayqah will establish a headquarters in Zahlah. Earlier, in a speech broadcast by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Junblatt warned that hopes for peace have been dashed and he spoke of a return to the "language of the gun."

Israel

In a speech in London broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres called on "responsible" Palestinian leaders, "especially on the West Bank and Gaza," to join with Jordan's King Husayn "in the journey" to the negotiating table with Israel. He proposed that a "Preliminary meeting of small working teams" be held to work out the technical details of the negotiations, Jerusalem television added. Peres also met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who accepted his invitation to visit Israel, the radio later reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces repelled an Iranian attack in the central sector, killing 30 Iranian troops, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. INA reported that Iraqi planes attacked another large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi called the drop in North Sea oil prices a "conspiracy of global arrogance," Tehran radio reported. Meanwhile, President 'Ali Khamene'i returned from his tour of Pakistan and the African Frontline States, according to the radio, which earlier reported that Khamene'i's refusal to attend a Zimbabwe banquet "due to antireligious and anti-Islamic programs" was praised in a Council of Guardians session.

Kuwait

A National Assembly committee approved a proposal to establish a military force for the protection of oil installations, KUNA reported.

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Babrak Karmal Interviewed by Egyptian Paper

PM220945 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Jan 86 pp 6, 7, 10

[Interview with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, by Husayn 'Abd al-Kaziq and Aminah al-Naqqash at the People's Palace in Kabul; date not specified]

[Excerpt] Babrak Karmal received us in his office with open arms saying: You are welcome in our revolutionary country, your sisterly country. I have read a lot about you as comrades of the road and friends; I have read about your struggle, your revolution, and your life. What is life? It is work and struggle for the happiness and freedom of all working people. I have also read the statement your newspaper issued on 10 January 1980 in which you declared your rejection of imperialism's aggressive military intervention in Afghanistan's affairs and called for a halt to the aggression and for the withdrawal of Soviet forces.

The Egyptian people are our fraternal people. This goes back deep into history — culturally, religiously, and even linguistically. The Arab language is the language of Muslims. There are many Arabic words in our language.

I beg you to feel that you are really in your country. Do not hesitate to ask any question you wish and I promise to answer it frankly as a friend. We then began the dialogue with him:

Question: Six years ago, on 27 December 1979, the Command Council of the April 1978 Revolution adopted a decision dismissing Hafizullah Amin, chairman of the council, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and chairman of the Council of Ministers, along with some of his aides and it chose you to assume all these posts and responsibilities. What has become known as the second stage of the April Revolution begun then? What were the conditions and implications that led to the issuing of those decisions?

Answer: A few weeks after the triumph of the 27 April 1978 Revolution, Afghanistan was the target of expanding external aggression and conspiracy. Training camps were set up for counterrevolutionary elements in neighboring countries, particularly in Pakistan and Iran. These elements were trained, organized, and provided with arms in these camps, all under the supervision of Western intelligence. They were then dispatched to our country's open borders, entering it via the shepherds' traditional tracks in order to spread terror and destruction in Afghanistan.

At the orders of Washington's Administration, the reactionary and imperialist forces adopted a hostile strategy against the revolution right from the beginning. Moreover, they tried to supply the counterrevolutionary forces with arms, to provide them with training and funds, and to send them into the country in order to benefit from their agents and spies inside the revolutionary movement in our country.

It must be admitted that our party's leadership made a great mistake when it allowed the infiltration of agents into the party and gave them power. Hafizullah Amin and his gang infiltrated our party 1 year after it was established. U.S. imperialism exploited him against the revolutionary movement during different periods of time and used him for 10 years in creating divisions in the party ranks. After the revolution, Hafizullah Amin succeeded in staging a palace coup inside the regime and, under a false revolutionary guise, committed the most abominable crimes in the name of defending the revolution and the people, while he was, in fact, against the progressive and revolutionary ideas and against the masses. Hafizullah Amin was seeking to divert the revolution from its original path, distort its public image, and isolate it from the masses. He did not even hesitate to murder Nur Mohammad Taraki despite the fact that he was his student and like his son. Amin's actions led the majority of the people to turn against the party, the revolution, and against progress in the sense proposed by Amin.

The attacks and conspiracies organized by the United States, imperialism in general, reaction from abroad through the counterrevolutionary forces, Amin's deviation of the revolution, and U.S. intelligence activity inside the country led to a total deterioration of the situation which not only threatened the revolution and the people but also threatened the division and partitioning of Afghanistan and threatened to cause it to lose its independence and national sovereignty.

In those critical moments the party united against Amin. He had with him no more than 100 members occupying certain government posts. With the party's strength we were able to regain power and bring down Amin's rule. With the 27 December 1979 uprising we crushed the plot of the enemies of the revolution and restored the revolution to its original path. Hence the people called the second and new stage of the revolution the stage of saving the revolution, the masses, and Afghan society.

Question: After having spent 3 weeks in Afghanistan it has become clear to us that your country is the target of an "undeclared" actual war by many foreign forces allied with internal forces. Which, in your view, are the social and political forces hostile to the revolution inside Afghanistan? Which are the external forces fighting the war against you, and what in particular is the role of the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia?

Answer: The counterrevolutionary elements that are active in the form of armed gangs infiltrating from abroad are composed of the feudal forces which lost their privileges after the April revolution, some of the reactionary clerics, supporters of the toppled royalist regime in Afghanistan, smugglers, and agents of reactionary countries and imperialism. These forces have influence on some Afghan citizens who have fallen temporarily under their power and manipulation through deceit, misrepresentation, and terror.

A number of reactionary and imperialist countries organize, train, and finance the counterrevolutionary elements in the countries bordering Afghanistan. I mean Iran, Pakistan, and China. Infiltration operations and acts of an undeclared war are launched against us from there. Foremost among the countries that are taking part in the undeclared war against us are the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan, China, France,

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt — particularly during Al-Sadat's rule — and Israel.

The United States has provided the counterrevolutionary elements with more than $1 billion in order to kill the Afghans and destroy their country. This year alone the U.S. Congress allocated $480 million to finance the "undeclared" war against us. The amount of aid the United States has given to the counterrevolutionary elements is more than 6 times the amount it gave to Afghanistan as aid in 20 years before the revolution. The other countries such as West Germany, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain and France gave financial aid to the tune of $800 million.

Despite the close ties between our people and the Pakistani people, Islamabad's military regime under Ziaul Haq's leadership has turned Pakistani territory into a launching point for the counterrevolutionary forces against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

At present there are 120 camps for training in terrorist and military operations on Pakistani territory. Other groups are being trained in Iran and in Xinjiang province in China.

This "undeclared" war which our people are confronting is in fact an aggression by the imperialist countries against the integrity of Afghan territory and our independence and national sovereignty. It is part of the aggressive strategy and international terror which the United States is exercising in order to achieve its objective of imposing its domination of the world and South Asia in particular.

This war has caused tremendous economic losses which exceeded $35 billion, a figure representing two-thirds of what was spent on developing our country in the 20 years before the revolution. As a result of these terrorist operations more than 254 mosques and places of prayer were destroyed as well as more than 1,840 schools, 130 hospitals and health centers, 800 transport vehicles, 1000 km of electric and telephone lines, and a number of power stations and economic projects.

What is strange is that the U.S. Administration under Reagan's leadership, which is directly responsible for sabotage and terrorist operations, describes peoples' liberation movements, including the just struggle of the heroic Palestinian people for freedom and independence, as "international terrorism."

Question: Which are the political forces and organizations that comprise the counterrevolutionary elements and which are publicly known as the "mujahidin"? Is the Muslim Brotherhood playing a role among these forces? What is the truth regarding what has been said about the formation of a unified front of the forces hostile to the revolution on the Afghan-Pakistan borders?

Answer: Many centers have been established beyond our borders, on Iranian and Pakistani territory, going under the various names of the forces opposed to the revolution. These groupings, despite names and appearances, are not political forces with a specific political program. Rather they are groupings hostile to the revolution but in conflict with one another. But the major part of these forces consists of Afghan nationals who were deceived as a result of misunderstanding, lack of consciousness, and false slogans about the protection of Islam as well as a result of fear of, and terror by, these gangs. At the center of these forces stands the Muslim Brotherhood, which, prior to the revolution, was the basic force opposed to development and progress. In our country the Muslim Brotherhood has worked in full coordination with the CIA and the reactionary forces.

The counterrevolutionary forces are incapable of standing up for 1 day in the face of our armed forces. However, it is not the internal forces that complicate the situation in our country, it is the attacks and the blatant support for the undeclared war which the imperialist and reactionary countries are waging against us and on which they spend billions of dollars in order to hinder the triumphant Afghan people's struggle.

There is no real unity or union between these counterrevolutionary groups. The radical differences between these gangs distance them from one another. The basic differences in the conflict between them lie in dividing the booty, the U.S. dollars, and the Arab petrodollars that are paid into the private accounts of the leaders of these gangs. All that is said about union between them is done so only for appearances, constituting temporary phenomena that do not cover the depth of the conflict and even bloody clashes between these gangs which exchange the planting of bombs in each another's centers and the assassination of their members.

Question: Pakistan, Iran, and the foreign forces hostile to your revolution have benefited from the Afghan refugees in the armed operations against you as well as in the propaganda field. What, in your estimate, is the number of refugees? As we know, you have addressed an appeal to the Afghan people to return home and you issued a law pardoning those who return. What are the obstacles preventing the return of others?

Answer: There are exaggerations and lies regarding the question of Afghan refugees. It is one of the important propaganda weapons the counterrevolutionary forces are exploiting. Generally, among those refugees there are those who fled after losing their wealth, which they plundered from the people or derived from their illegitimate class privileges, as a result of the revolution's triumph. They consciously and deliberately stood against the revolution. Others include those who were driven to leave the country by a lack of awareness and under the influence of propaganda by the enemies of the revolution. Still others are those whom the counterrevolutionary forces forced to emigrate under the threat of violence and coercion. The refugees also include those who fled from the country during the criminal practices of Hafizullah Amin's regime, who left their homes out of fear of imprisonment, murder, or torture.

But the great majority of the refugees are those Afghans who before the revolution used to go to Iran, Pakistan, and the Arab Gulf countries in search of work and livelihood, fleeing from poverty. There are also the nomad bedouins who are used to the nomadic life on the open borders with Pakistan and Iran. They were surprised by the counterrevolutionary forces and the reactionary regimes in Pakistan and Iran placing obstacles on the path of their return to the country following the revolution's triumph.

There are no accurate statistics as to the number of those refugees. The statistics announced by the ruling regimes in Pakistan and Iran or the counterrevolutionary groups are contradictory and exaggerated. Financial aid by the reactionary governments and organizations and world imperialism to these groups and to Pakistan is defined on the basis of the number of refugees. The world press, particularly the Western press, has pointed out the vast differences in the data submitted on the number of refugees. We have clearly announced that the country's bosom is open to all the Afghan people who are now outside the borders without discriminating or differentiating among them.

We are advocates of peace and national reconciliation as well as of peace and security. Within the framework of the current policy of broadening the social base of the revolution and under the currently valid pardon decree issued by the Revolution Command Council, the Afghan Grand National Assembly (Loya Jirga) and the Higher Council for the Border Tribes issued an appeal to the deceived citizens to return to the land of their fathers and forefathers without fear of questioning.

Despite the fact that the Pakistani militarists and their American masters as well as the Chinese and Iran's reactionary rulers place obstacles on the path of the honorable citizens' return to their country, our efforts to achieve peace and bring back the refugees have in fact borne fruit. Hundreds of thousands of citizens outside the country have responded to our appeal. Following the recent Loya Jirga meeting, tens of thousands of citizens have returned and a large number of individuals who were in the counterrevolutionary ranks have laid down their arms and resumed their normal life.

Question: In your statement you mentioned an Egyptian role in supporting the counterrevolutionary elements. Our party, the NPUG, had a clear stand against interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. This role was admitted by former president Anwar al-Sadat several times. The latest of these admissions was a few days before he was assassinated when, in September 1981, he told the Western press that the United States had contacted him in December 1979 and asked him to open up the arms and ammunition depots for those Afghans wishing to fight. Al-Sadat met their request and U.S. aircraft began shipping arms directly from Cairo to Pakistan. These were the same Soviet-made weapons which the Egyptian Army had before the severance of relations with the Soviets. Al-Sadat also admitted training some of the counterrevolutionary forces in Egypt. In view of the data you have, is the present Egyptian Government still participating in the war against you?

Answer: First, I would like to express the Afghan people's thanks and appreciation for the NPUG and its Secretary General Khalid Muhyi al-Din and all the Egyptian national forces for the truly brotherly and peaceful stand in defense of the Afghan revolution against Al-Sadat's intrigues.

What Egyptian reaction, under Al-Sadat's leadership, committed against the Muslim and toiling Afghan people is known to the whole world. Al-Sadat placed the Egyptian arms and ammunition at the disposal of the U.S. Administration and provided the rebels and outlaws in Afghanistan with arms, training, advisers, and even with funds. Presently, training is still going on there, but to a lesser extent than during Al-Sadat's time.

We are confident that the pro-interference forces will eventually submit to the will of the brotherly and peaceful Egyptian people. They will accept our revolution — the great April Revolution — as a fait accompli and will be compelled to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Egyptian and Afghan people are linked by traditional historical ties and common cultural and religious roots. Brotherly peoples have the same interests and the same enemies.

Question: What about Israel's role?

Answer: The Zionist regime is the principal U.S. ally in the area. It does not only commit aggression against the fraternal Palestinian people and all the Arab peoples, but it is also playing an active role in creating tension in the area and in the movement against progress throughout the world at the the instructions of, and in coordination with, Washington. There is no doubt that you have detailed information regarding the close ties and cooperation between the racist Tel Aviv and Pretoria regimes and the exportation of Israeli arms to the Chilean dictatorial regime and to El Salvador. The Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, and the CIA work hand in hand against the liberation and revolutionary movements. These joint operations include the training and equipping of Afghan counterrevolutionary elements. The Western media has admitted this fact along with the fact that the Soviet weapons the Israelis captured during their aggression against Sinai and the Golan and their invasion of Lebanon were delivered to the Afghan counterrevolutionary forces through U.S. espionage rings. In fact, the weapons the rebels are training with in Pakistani camps are made in Israel.

Israeli radio broadcasts a special program in Dari, the language of the Afghan people, and together with the other Israeli media, participates in the psychological warfare against our country. They never fail to exploit any opportunity for spreading lies against revolutionary development in our society.

Question: How do you evaluate Israel's role in the Arab area and what is your attitude toward the Palestinian revolution for the establishment of a democratic and independent Palestinian state and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the revolution's recourse to armed struggle to achieve its objectives?

Answer: With regard to the Palestinian people's struggle against the occupying Zionists, we have always stood on the side of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in accordance with the foreign policy of our party and of the Afghan Democratic Republic. We have stressed these rights in all principal party and government statements and documents.

As you know, the PLO political representation in Kabul is at ambassadorial level. We have always stressed the need for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and for enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in the land of their forefathers

The development of events confirms that Zionist Israel is an active imperialist base in the heart of the Arab world against social progress and peace. It carries out U.S. strategic plans in the region. It is a source of constant danger and of aggressive policy against independence, national sovereignty, and the integrity of the Arab territories. It dreams of establishing an Israeli empire from the Nile to the Euphrates.

With regard to supporting the Palestinian Arab people's rights, we have supported the Soviet Union's constructive proposals for holding an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We would accept any alternative agreed upon by all parties concerned. Development of events and historical experience have proved the futility of bilateral agreements such as that of Camp David between Al-Sadat and Israel, since they offer no support for solving the essential problem.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian revolution, in its struggle for freedom and independence, has the right to resort to all means, including armed struggle. The heroic Palestinian people alone will decide which path to follow in their liberation struggle.

Question: We now come to a controversial issue which has been the subject of much argument and clamor, namely, the question of the Soviet presence in your country, or, as the Western media call it, the Soviet invasion of your country. What exactly is the Soviet Union's role in confronting the "undeclared" war against you? Is Soviet support restricted to military backing or is there economic and technical assistance? What is the role of this assistance in implementing your plans to realize the national democratic revolution? Under what terms and conditions will your government decide on the withdrawal of Soviet forces?

Answer: It is a well known and established fact that Afghan-Soviet friendship is as ancient as the existence of the Soviet state itself. They are relations distinguished by moral straightforward ness. Soviet-Afghan relations were established more then half a century before the revolution. They have been established on the basis of our people's interests and their will, under difficult historical conditions when our freedom-loving people were standing against British colonialism, fighting against it at the beginning of this century. Since King Amanullah in 1919, important Soviet aid in the economic, cultural, and military fields has played an important part in strengthening Afghanistan's independence.

There is no doubt that the friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, based on total equality of rights and mutual respect, have strengthened Afghanistan's stand in the international arena and have provided broad opportunities for friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Following World War II, Afghan-Soviet friendship emerged triumphant from its testing by time.

The Loya Jirga, at its meeting in 1955, rejected attempts by the imperialist countries to link Afghanistan (which was then royalist) to the military alliances hostile to the Soviet Union and decided that Afghanistan should remain a neutral country.

For the past 65 years the Soviet Union has given unconditional aid to our country for economic and social development. It resolved problems stemming from the backwardness of the Afghan community which was forced to remain in the darkness of the Medieval Ages. It suffices to point out that during a period of 26 years (from 1955 to 1981) some 190 projects have been completed with Soviet aid. Presently, the Soviet Union is providing important aid for the growth of our national economy and the implementation of the 5-year plan. It is difficult to enumerate the number and type of these projects, but it would suffice to mention here some of the projects that have been carried out with honest Soviet aid: the oil and natural gas industry in northern Afghanistan; the fertilizers company; the electric power stations in Mazar-e Sharif, Naghlu, and Pol-e Khomri; the Jangalak industrial complex; Kabul International Airport; the central automatic flour mill and bakery in Kabul; the Kabul-Hayraton road linking the northern part of the country to the south through a 3 km mountain pass in the Hindukush mountains; Towraghoudi-Herat-Qandahar road; the irrigation canal in Jalalabad (70 km long); and Daruntah electric power station as well as scores of projects and bridges which all provide concrete evidence of this friendship.

Following the success of the revolution other projects were set up thanks to Soviet-Afghan friendship, such as copper mining at the Aynak mines which are among the biggest in the world, an oil refinery, the building of six local airports, a factory manufacturing prefabricated houses in Kabul and so on. So, 60 percent of industrial production facilities have been set up with Soviet help. In the light of these close ties, we receive Soviet military aid,something we have always received from the Soviet Union since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The legitimate Afghan Government asked the Soviet Union to give us military aid in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation which we concluded with the Soviet Union on 5 December 1978, and on the basis of a previous agreement signed between the two countries after our independence as well as in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Soviet Union responded to the Afghan Government's request and sent limited military units in order to help our people repel external aggression, preserve our national independence, and defend the integrity of our country.

We asked for Soviet aid at a critical point in our country's history following our success in toppling Hafizullah Amin and his group. At that moment all the nationalist Afghan forces became united with no difference between progressive and nationalist, and communist and socialist. Everyone became united under our party's leadership and we took over power just hours before a total collapse.

There are moments when time is everything. One hour or perhaps minutes in war and revolution could change the course of history or lead to the loss of everything. In those days our people's fate and the desire to preserve the country made it incumbent upon us to ask for military assistance from the Soviet Union. The Americans were ready to attack and so were Pakistan, Iran, And China. Without Soviet help there was danger of losing our independence, the integrity of our territory. There was the danger

of a spread of tension in the area, and probably the outbreak of regional wars and wars of intervention, perhaps all-out conventional war.

As a superpower, the Soviet Union realizes the situation precisely. It has 1,481 miles [as published] of borders with us and places the security and protection of these borders among its priorities. For the sake of their interest and our interest in Afghanistan they responded to the request to send a limited number of military units to our country for the protection of our independence and the integrity of our territory and finally for the protection of the revolution. The protection of the revolution was not among the first but rather the last reasons.

This honorable assistance cannot be called and invasion as the imperialist and reactionary countries do. The term invasion is used in the case of a state which, contrary to the will and resolve of a legitimate government and of a certain people and other state, takes measures jeopardizing the independence and sovereignty of that other state, such as the U.S. invasion of independent Grenada, Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and South African's invasion of Namibia.

The Soviet forces' role is very limited. The basic role in confronting aggression falls on the Afghan Armed Forces and the Afghan citizens, millions of whom carry arms in defense of the revolution. The reasons prompting us to ask for Soviet military assistance essentially still exit. Afghanistan is still facing an undeclared war being waged by the United States, its allies, and its agents. As long as this war continues, the Soviet military units will remain in Afghanistan in order to repel external aggression. When the danger of aggression is removed, foreign interference stops, and international guarantees are given that there will no repetition of aggression, then the question of the return of Soviet military units to their peace-loving country will be discussed between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has several times declared this principled stand.

Question: Mr President, What is your comment on the claim by several quarters that your continuation in power and the PDPA's continuation in power depends on the Soviet forces remaining in Afghanistan.

Answer: It is difficult for one to talk about oneself, but your question leaves no room for choice. The Afghan people know who I am. For more than 30 years I have been in the political battlefield on the side of the people. When I was a 20-year old university student I was jailed for 3 years, and for 8 years I was member of parliament during the rule of King Zahir Shah. I was PDPA secretary for 21 years. I participated in editing the newspapers *KHALQ* and *PARCHAM*, of which I was the chief editor. I did not land on the people from the sky and Moscow did not manufacture me. I am an Afghan manufacture, in flesh and blood. Moscow did not bring me to power.

As I have already said, the April Revolution broke out under the PDPA's leadership. The PDPA restored its unity after 10 years of division and we elected Taraki as the party secretary general because he was the most senior in age, regardless of anything else. We are loyal to our people's tradition of giving special consideration to the older people. We stood with Taraki and supported him. I was his assistant in the party, the state, and the government. But a palace revolution occurred and Hafizullah Amin took over power. I returned to Kabul secretly from abroad. Many of our party leaders were in jail and others in hiding and operating underground. We sought to unite the party against Hafizullah Amin; we expelled Amin from our party by force and regained power. Some 95 percent of the people were with us.

Throughout its contemporary history, Afghanistan has not had any parties of any consequence or continuity except our party. There were mere small groups of rightists and leftists. The rightistsoperating against Afghanistan from abroad and most of the leftists groups actually joined our party. When we regained power, our position was similar to that of Hamlet: "To be or not to be." This was the situation in Afghanistan.

The Soviets were already in Afghanistan. There were actually 15,000 Soviet soldiers before Hafizullah Amin's downfall. Taraki asked 14 times for Soviet military support and Hafizullah Amin asked 3 times for such support, but the Soviets did not approve.

When we regained power on 27 December 1979 and asked for Soviet support, the Soviets responded for the reasons I already mentioned.

I believe that your extensive tour of Afghanistan has confirmed to you that we rule because our people are on our side and not for of any other reason.

Question: It is obvious that the PDPA has played an important role in the Afghan people's history and in the establishment of the Afghan Democratic Republic. On 1 January your party completed 21 years of struggle. There is much that needs to be clarified about your party. Does your party, for example, have a unified ideology and what is this ideology and is your party communist as the Western press says?

Answer: Yes, our party does have one single ideology. There is no real party without an ideology. There has been one complete unified ideology since it was established. Our ideology has been and still is the ideology that serves the basic interests of all the working and production factions and classes in our society; the ideology of the suppressed majority. That is, the majority of working forces in our country and the world that defend peace, man's freedom, the national independence of nations, democracy, and social progress and stands against suppression and nuclear war.

There is a minority in the world, maybe 1 percent, that monopolizes wealth and power. I mean the world capitalist monopolies at the top of which the military monopolies, NATO, and the United States. This ruling monopoly in the West and in the United States promotes aggression, interference, and nuclear war. They are not content with starting wars on the face of earth but they want it in space. They want to turn the world into the "hell" about which our magnanimous Islamic religions tells us

On the other hand peace, the happiness of man on earth, and the continuation of civilization are defended by 99 percent of man-

kind. The socialist countries, the world liberation movement, the socialist liberation movement in the Third World, and the workers' democratic movement in the Third World defend the happiness and progress of man in their own countries and defend peace and progress in the world. These forces realize that they have a national, regional, and international duty. This is an ideological war and battle. We clearly belong to the ideology of the majority of the great masses. This is what we call ideology. It has only one single name: scientific socialism. This was the name chosen by your great leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and adopted by your party, the NPUG.

Our party, the PDPA, as is evident from its name is the party of all the working and toiling classes in our country. We accept in our party everyone who accepts the program of action and the party statutes. Our revolution is not a socialist revolution; rather it is a national democratic revolution led by the PDPA seeking to transfer the society from its present national democratic stage to a more progressive stage without bypassing the necessary stages for developing society.

At present we have the Patriotic and National Front that includes in its ranks the workers, peasants, craftsmen, the intelligentsia, the petite bourgeoisie, the national industrial capital, the shaykhs, the nationalists, the clerics, and the representatives of all the nationalisties and tribes in Afghanistan. As you know there are more than 20 nationalities in our country. We understand the theory and the reality well. We are not so narrow-minded as to say that we represent only the workers and the peasants. No, our revolution is a national democratic revolution. Following the success of the national democratic revolution our children may chose what we believe in — scientific socialism.

Of course, the enemies of our revolution, the imperialists and the reactionaries, raise false slogans and talk about the "communist danger" and about "Islam being in danger" and other such slogans that are being used in the psychological and propaganda warfare against us. They resort to the method of distorting the ideology of the working classes by relying on the spread of falsehoods and distortion of facts. Our answer to them is what you see in Afghanistan today.

Question: Do you find any contradiction between "scientific socialism" and Islam particularly in the light of the reactionary Islamic trends in Afghanistan and abroad, bearing in mind that in a previous statement (on 11 December 1981) you said that the ideas of the majority of the illiterate inhabitants are basically formed by the mullahs (the clerics who are to be found in the villages and among the tribesmen)?

Answer: The ideas of scientific socialism emerged as result of the long, hard, and complex struggle by the workers and the toiling classes hostile to class injustices in the capitalist societies. They are a historical necessity for freeing the toiling man from colonialism and class exploitation. These ideas, contrary to allegations by bourgeois ideologists and enemies of the people's classes, have never been against the people's beliefs. Our ideas, principles, and ideology are in the service of the people and its beliefs. We belong to our people and to what they believe in. Struggle for happiness, progress, freedom, and justice for the people, which is the essence of scientific socialism, cannot be contrary to the spirit of Islam.

Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the great leader of all Arab peoples, not only the Egyptian people, declared in the national action charter your people's adoption of scientific socialism. 'Abd al-Nasir, I believe, was a true Muslim and a true Egyptian and Arab nationalist.

Islam says: Seek knowledge even if in China. One cannot be against the use of electric power because Edison was not a Muslim or against the use of trains and buses and the achievements of sciences in general. But there are those who deliberately misinterpret Islam. There are those who use Islam as an umbrella in the interest of the exploitationist class and raise it as a slogan in their struggle. We believe that those are the real enemies of Islam. We are struggling against every attempt to link Islam and its great legacy to backwarndess and ignorance because this is contrary to the spirit of Islam. We defend Muhammad's Islam and the Islam of the caliphs and of 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Islam is against oppression and class exploitation. Islam, finally, comes from a man's heart and concerns his relations with his creator.

In our country in particular, we had an experiment with those who want to exploit Islam against the people's interest. When the era of European colonialism began, England came and set up its empire in India. It adopted the policy of divide and rule. They wrote a book about Islam. When I was a student held in the Kabul jail I met with a fanatic Muslim student who belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood in the Punjab. He told me that God does not himself come to defend Islam but rather He defends it through intermediaries, and the intermediary for defending Islam is England.

After we obtained independence during the era of King Amanullah Khan -- a true Muslim -- he wanted to develop Afghanistan, to take it out of the medieval ages and modernize it. England opposed him in the name of Islam in order to keep the country in the darkness of ignorance and backwardness without any culture or learning. They wanted Afghanistan to remain medieval so that there would be a gap between us and our neighbor the Soviet Union and the national liberation movement in India and Southeast Asia. They wanted a backward buffer zone between the socialist revolution and the national liberation revolution in Asia.

Unfortunately today there is an "American Islam" which alone is standing against real Islam and against progress, science, and socialism. If our prophet Muhammad -- may God's peace and blessing be upon him -- today returned to the Arabian Peninsula and to Mecca and Medina and saw billions of dollars go to the United States and Britain and, indirectly, even to Israel, what would he say about us Muslims? Is it not ridiculous that Reagan should appoint himself defender of Islam?

Reagan today in the eyes of those ruling Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, and Iran, is a great Muslim despite the fact that he is the same Reagan that stands against Islam in Palestine and the Middle East. According to the Koran, Israel has no right to

Palestine, but Reagan defends Israel and defends Ziaul Haq's tyrannical military regime in Islamabad.

Also, Iran is not an Islamic revolution or even a popular revolution. It is an example of chauvinistic nationalist fanaticism. It is a Farsi revolution persecuting all other nationalities inside and outside the country.

Becauwe we are the inheritors of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani who, with a progressive and national perspective, sought to unify the Islamic world in order to confront the British occupation to which he was hostile, we will continue to struggle against the real enemies of Islam and for the true Islam, a just Islam coupled with peace and human brotherhood and against oppression, injustice, and backwarndess. If the Prophet's land has become an reactionary center in the name of Islam, Kabul will become the capital of true Islam. We are the real Islam and those who are hostile to us in the name of Islam are its real enemies.

Briefly, to say that there is contradiction between socialism and religion is an invention of the imperialists and the reactionaries. We as real nationalist and progressive Muslims must object to the asking of this question in the first place.

Question: Next April the April 1978 rEvolution will complete its eighth year. Recently (on 27 December) the sixth anniversary of what you call the second stage of the revolution was marked. What has the national democratic revolution offered the Afghan people?

Answer: Obviously the achievement of political and social changes, completion of radical changes in a society belonging to the Middle Ages in which there is 95 percent illiteracy and in which poverty and economic and social backwardness prevails is not an easy task. What the revolution has inherited is also not easy or simple.

Nevertheless, I believe that we have made important progress. With the beginning of the April 1978 Revolution millions of peasants were freed of the burden of debts. The Revolutionary Council issued a decision abolishing debts owed by peasants and decided to limit agricultural holdings and to distribute land and water to the peasants. Some 313,000 peasant families obtained land free. We are devoting great attention to the question of agricultural reform and offer comprehensive assistance to the peasants. In addition to land and water we provided mechanized farming stations, selected seeds, chemical fertilizers, loans to farmer cooperatives, and basic social services. In the economic field there has also been tangible progress. Agricultural production last year increased by 7.7 percent compared with the first year of the 1978 revolution and industrial production increased by 4.6 percent. Scores of government and mixed economic projects have been built.

Raising the standard of mass political action has played a role in achieving progress in the various fields and in strengthening the country's financial situation. During the past year an increase of 8.6 percent was achieved in general production and 15.2 percent in invested general production [as published] compared with the year 1978. This could not have been possible without the accomplishment of cultural revolution, at the heart of which was the national campaign against illiteracy. We have organized 20,000 illiteracy combating sessions in the country that covered all the nationalities and tribes in Afghanistan. So far 1.5 million Afghans have been taught to read and write.

At the same time we have paid special attention to creating technical, scientific, and university graduates cadres. Since the revolution some 12,000 persons with high qualifications have graduated from universities and institutions in Afghanistan and fundamental changes have been made in the education and teaching systems. New universities and additional colleges have been established as well as technical and vocational training centers.

The state and the party devoted great attention to the citizens' health and treatment. Every Afghan citizen today enjoys free health services, including treatment, surgical operations, and medicine. The number of hospitals and clinics has increased by 32 percent and the number of doctors by 87 percent. In order to improve the standard of living we have doubled the workers' wages and during last year the state employees' and workers' wages increased by 18.7 to 20 percent.

Many important things have been achieved on the political, popular, and democratic levels. The PDPA has gained wide popularity and new membership. At the same time more than 30 tribes are represented in our party. Youths (under 30 years) represent 65 percent of the party membership. Of the new membership workers account for 16.9 percent and peasants account for 33.3 percent. The workers and peasants generally form 28.4 percent of the party membership.

Also the Patriotic and National Front was born. It includes in its ranks all the nationalities, the tribes, the patriotic and democratic forces, the nation's prominent figures, the social and popular organizations such as the General Federation of Workers, the Democratic Women's Organization, the Democratic Youth Organization, the Artists Union, the Writers Union, the Journalists Union, the Higher Council of Ulemas and Clerics, the Council of the Tribesmen and Nationalities Associations, the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization, and so on.

An important historical event occurred in 1985 when the historic Grand National Assembly of the Afghan masses (Loya Jirga) which consists of the representatives of all the Afghan people met in Kabul and was attended by more than 1,000 delegates. The Higher Council of the Border Tribes also met with more than 3,000 delegates attending. During that year the law on local councils was implemented. Free and democratic elections were held for the citizens' representatives in all the organs of local government at village, district, and provincal levels. These elections are still taking place throughout Afghanistan. The elections, which I believe you have observed, have proved the Afghan people's firm will to pursue the road to political stability, the sovereignty of the working classes, and the continuation of revolution. All these developments and achievements have been realized under the conditions of the undeclared war by imperialism and reaction. Had it not been for this war our people would have doubled their triumphs.

Question: Mr President, the question of democracy always arouses our concern. In a statement you made on 29 December 1979 you said that at the first opportunity a broad front will be formed that will include the patriotic and democratic forces under the PDPA's leadership and that it will ensure all the democratic freedoms including the freedom to form patriotic and progressive parties and popular organizations, and the freedom of press, of expression, and of assembly. During our 3-week visit to Afghanistan we have seen that you have made considerable progress toward fulfilling this promise, yet there is a persistent question: Is there a possibility in future that parties other than the ruling party will be formed in Afghanistan?

Answer: In order to answer this question it is necessary to take a quick glance at the political state of affairs and the social conditions that existed before the revolution. Under the monarchy, local feudalism, and the corrupt bureaucracy, the Afghan people remained deprived of any participation in political and social life and in determining its fate whether under the reactionary monarchy or Daud's tyrannical government. The Afghans were never legally allowed to form political parties, trade unions, or democratic or social organization; nor were they allowed freedom of assembly and expression. After the revolution, especially during its second stage and after eliminating Hafizullah Amin and his clique, the restoration of the revolution to its original path, and the participation of the patriotic classes and factions in it, we launched the process of promoting democracy in political and social life, in state administration, and in all the state affairs as well as in ensuring individual and collective freedoms. These freedoms and rights have been recorded in the basic principles (the provisional constitution).

In December 1979 thousands of political prisoners were released without discrimination on grounds of religious, ideological, or organizational affiliation and everything possible was done to restore the atmosphere of understanding with those who chose to distance themselves from the revolution because of the mistakes committed during the first stage of the revolution. Democratic, social, and trade union organizations have been set up, the Patriotic and National Front was established as the state's social base, the Loya Jirga was convened, local government elections were held, and the Higher Council of Border Tribes was convened. Consultation [shura] plays an important role in our country's political system; it combines the requirements of a modern society with the traditions and habits of our forefathers as well as meeting the interests of the toiling class and of all the patriotic and democratic forces.

If you go back to the 10 proposals which I put to the Revolutionary Council at the extraordinary plenary session on 9 November 1985 and the Revolutionary Council statement in this regard you will find that the state is tending toward further effective participation by all the patriotic forces in conducting political and social life. We clearly announced at this meeting that any political power has the right to establish a political party or a social organization unconditionally. The only condition is loyalty to the revolution and not to conspire against the state. When new parties are formed they will have the right to publish their own newspapers, hold meetings, and join the Patriotic and National front.

Question: A final question, Mr President: You personally had two important experiments. The first was the experiment of parliamentary work and the second of journalistic work. How did these two experiments influence your views and your method of political action?

Answer: Talking about oneself is difficult, but where the views and political actions of those who shoulder a fundamental responsibility in their country are concerned it is not separate from public action and struggle. First and foremost, it must be made clear that my personal experiment is an indivisible part of the activities and experiments of the PDPA. The experiments of revolutionary struggle are considered a major school for the masses and party leaders and the triumphs and temporary defeats teach us many lessons and help us to clarify the course and rectify views. I was member of parliament for Kabul for 8 years during King Zahir Shah's rule. I believe that without this experiment I would not have been able to understand Afghanistan correctly and completely. In the parliament there are representatives of all factions, classes, nationalities, and Afghan tribes; there are the reactionaries, the feudalists, the backward men of religion, and the cultured capitalists. I used to meet daily with ordinary citizens who would come from all parts of the country on the grounds that my colleagues and I were their true representatives. Strong ties were forged between us and the people. I knew their life, their families, their habits, and their problems. I gained a greater understanding of the peasants, the students, the workers, and the intelligentsia. I also acquired a thorough knowledge of the government's weak points and of what was going on in the Armed Forces, the police, the cabinet, and the king's palace. I studied Afghanistan through the parliament and I used to tour towns and villages. It was a tremendous experiment. I trained in parliament on how to manage conflict. I know how the agent governments work for the United States, and how they use the parliament to change governments. It was not a theoretical experiment derived from books but a practical experiment stemming from the experience of daily life and direct contact. With regard to the journalistic work experiment whether in *KHALQ* or *PARCHAM* newspapers, I had a rich experiment which stood me in good stead ideologically and on the plane of political action. In order to write there must be deep awareness and you must read in depth. One must understand the world revolutionary experiments. You must understand politics, programs, and correct tactics. You must study the people, history, and politics and express the people in a language understood and accepted by the people. Politics, my friends, is art, science, strategy, and tactics. The press is a vast world. In order to be a realistic and progressive journalists, you must be with the people and not with money and dollars. To be always a close friend of the truth is really enjoyable and beautiful but it is difficult.

NFF Chairman Meets With Foreign Journalists

LD210945 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0542 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 20, BAKHTAR — The National Fatherland Front, NFF, of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, has over 760,000 members who are organized in over 2500 councils throughout Afghanistan. This was stated by Adorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA, to a large number of foreign journalists

from the socialist countries, India, Sweden, the United States, Britain, Kuwait, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany and Finland.

Replying to a question posed by a journalist of PTI of India, Abdorrahim Hatef said that a good number of non-party figures have been elected as members of the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium and it is for the first time that a religious figure has been elected as vice-president of the Revolutionary Council.

Abdorrahim Hatef added that right now tens of thousands of our countrymen have picked up arms for defending their families, their country and the revolution.

Dwelling on the role of the National Fatherland Front in the social and political life of the country, he said that the NFF's role is on the increase day by day. He cited as an example the election of NFF's candidates to the membership of the state highest organ of the DRA, that is, the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium, the majority of whom are non-party.

Touching upon the election of the local organs of the state power and administration, A. Hatef said that NFF plays a significant role in the elections. Right now, hundreds of NFF candidates were elected to the membership of the councils of representatives of the people, have occupied the highest official posts in the localities and are actively engaged in social and political activities.

The visiting foreign journalists also visited Watten nursery and chatted with the orphaned children. A ten-year old child, Shah Aqa from Parwan Province in an exciting talk with a journalist of Federal Republic of Germany said that he and his colleagues live in a common family and are enjoying an even better life than they did with their own parents due to the kind attention paid to them by their revolutionary state.

The visiting foreign journalists also had a meeting with Abdul Rashid Waziri, deputy minister of tribes and nationalities. Talking on the historical characteristics and geographical situation of the regions where tribes and nationalities live, Rashid Waziri described the great role of the tribes as an unshakeable bulwark for safeguarding the independence of the country against the aggressions and encroachments made by colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism.

Replying to a Japanese journalist, Rashid Waziri said that the majority of those who live outside the country under the pressure of imperialist propaganda want to return to their homeland availing of the decree of general amnesty of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Replying to a question raised by a REUTER journalist, Rashid Waziri said that the frontier tribes are armed due to their historical and national characteristics and regard their weapons as a means of defending and safeguarding their honour and freedom.

Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference 22 January

LD222059 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, held a press conference today with a group of foreign journalists who had come to Kabul at the invitation of his ministry. At the press conference the minister of foreign affairs replied to various questions from the foreign journalists about the DRA foreign policy, the process of Geneva talks, efforts of the DRA government for the peaceful solution of the events around Afghanistan through talks, the situation in the region, and topical international issues, in a friendly atmosphere.

PDPA Political Bureau Supports Gorbachev Initiative

LD221856 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau has held a session, chaired by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau regards the announcement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, presenting a collection of new and major principles of his country's foreign policy, as responsive to the needs of the world people, and it profoundly affirms and supports it. The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau has instructed all party committee, primary party organizations and ideological personnel in all [word indistinct] to take measures to explain this important historic document inside and outside the country. At this session decisions were also made on a number of immediate domestic and foreign issues.

Baluchistan Tribes Demonstrate Against Pakistan

LD210917 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 20, BAKHTAR: The struggle movement of the people of Baluchistan against the oppressive people of Pakistan has gained extensive dimension in the wake of the jirga earlier held by the various tribes of Baluchistan.

The reports reaching here say that an extensive demonstrations held in Chaman market staged by Pushtun Khowa party against the despotic rulers of Pakistan. [sentence as received] Over six thousand people had participated from the various tribes of Chaman and its suburbs. The demonstrators in their slogans called for free and democratic elections in Pakistan in which everybody should have free vote. They also chanted slogans such as down to Ziaul Haq, long live Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the Pushtun leader and long live the leader of Afghanistan who is a sincere and honest friend of tribes.

The reports reaching here say that the police of the oppressive state of Pakistan were not able to react against the awakened people of Baluchistan who are combating to secure their established rights as the regime could forsee a violent clash between the Baluchi people and the Pakistani policemen.

Anti-Terrorist Probers Take Charge of Investigation

HK230702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 23 (AFP) — Forty-four people including nine foreigners died when fire swept a luxury hotel here today in a suspected arson attack, and the case has been handed over to anti-terrorist probers, police said. A West German diplomat and his wife were among the foreign victims. Preliminary investigations suggested that the remaining seven were Americans and Australians, City Police Chief Ved Marwah said. Hotel Director S.C. Jain also told reporters: "We do not rule out sabotage ... in fact we suspect it. The strange thing is that the fire broke out at a place which was empty."

Guests said they heard no fire alarm, but escaped after smoke began to engulf their rooms. Survivors said many of the victims in the blaze were suffocated. There were 180 people staying at the 137-room hotel, located in the Vasant Vihar elegant residential district favoured by foreign diplomats.

The West German Embassy here identified two of the victims as Gunther Gerlack and his wife. Mr. Gerlack had just arrived in India to head the embassy's Administration Office and was living in the hotel as he had yet to find a house. Earlier, the hotel management had told journalists that six Americans, eight Australians and two West Germans were missing.

Earlier this month the city administration cut off the power supply to three hotels after they had failed to satisfy fire officials about the fire fighting arrangements at the hotels.

Today's blaze also came as Indian security forces were on alert across north India after intelligence reports that Sikh militants campaigning for a separate Sikh nation might mount attacks on India's Republic Day celebrations on Sunday.

President Delivers Republic Day Speech

BK221523 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Republic Day message by Indian President Zail Singh — live or recorded]

[Text] It gives me great pleasure to greet you, my fellow citizens, on our 37th Republic Day tomorrow. On this happy occasion I convey my best wishes to you all. The Republic Day is a joyous occasion for all of us. It reminds us that we are a sovereign people and are the makers and masters of our own national destiny. It also gives us an opportunity to evaluate our achievements and to ponder over the tasks yet to be undertaken and completed. A review of this nature helps us to face the future boldly and with greater self confidence.

Our republic is based on democracy, socialism and secularism. Tolerance and respect for one another are the hallmarks of our democratic system. A democracy harmonises the various forces at work and takes society towards a common goal. It works through various institutions within the framework of our constitution. It is the duty of leaders of all political parties and every citizen of the country to ensure that these institutions work properly and harmony is maintained. Since we became a republic, we have gained rich experience in running democracy successfully.

It is a matter of pride for all of us that our electorate has exercised franchise in a mature and fearless manner and democracy has taken deep roots in our soil. While working within the framework of our constitution, we have to maintain and strengthen the basic unity of the country. Adhering strictly to democratic ideals, we have to accelerate our economic progress. If we develop any differences, those can be resolved through discussion and mutual goodwill.

Political differences should not assume the overtones of hostility or enemity. There should be a healthy competition among political parties to formulate better programmes for greater welfare of the masses. The verdict of the electorate in a democracy is supreme. The will of the people shall prevail. We should learn to respect the sovereign wishes of the people with grace and a spirit of service.

In the year that passed, there were shining examples of the working of our democratic system. The Punjab and Assam accords are models of democratic adjustments that have been welcomed by the people. This amply proves the existence of inner cohesion based on eternal values among the people throughout the country.

The ruling party and the opposition, whether at the all-India level or at the level of states, together represent the collective will of the electorate as partners in the service of the people. Our democratic system allows for free expression of views, and this is necessarily reflected through the electoral process.

The unity of India comes above all other considerations. It is not only the political unity, but the unity of the spirit, sentiment and emotion, the roots of which lie deep in our national consciousness. These have been enriched by the teachings of spiritual leaders and guides throughout our history. It is based on eternal values like truth, love, compassion, tolerance and respect for others. These values have also been enshrined in our constitution. It is, however, unfortunate that some decline in the observance of these values has been evident. It gives rise to many undesirable consequences. For this decline in values, we can only blame ourselves. It is no more possible to escape the responsibility for this in the name of transition. People look up to the leaders for high moral standards. Let all political parties set high moral values and sustain them with their own actions and deeds.

Rule of law is another cardinal principle of our democratic system. It guarantees equal protection of the law to every citizen. It also means the equality of every person before the majesty of the law. It is incumbent on everyone to observe the laws. It is also the duty of all law enforcing agencies to implement the laws strictly in the interests of a peace loving society.

The country's economy has done well last year and the future course is well set with the launching of the seventh 5-year plan. The plan calls for a sustained economic growth at 5 percent per year. For achievement of this objective, a set of programmes and policies have been outlined. It is a matter of happiness to note

that the main thrust in the plan is on the special anti-poverty programmes. Continuance of poverty in any form and in any region is a threat to our stability and unity. Balanced economic growth with justice is a basic feature of our planning process. It is the only answer to meet emerging socio-economic aspirations.

It is gratifying to note that a major objective of the seventh plan is to ensure that the growth of employment opportunities is faster than the growth of labour force. The task of the government is to facilitate increased production by promoting smooth relations between labour and capital. They have a vital role to play to the implementation of the seventh plan. The relations between management and labour should be such as to minimise avoidable friction which harms the national economy. Let us adhere to our philosophy of planning with the active participation of the people. I appeal to all implementing agencies of the plan to work wholeheartedly for its success. It should alleviate growing restlessness among the people, especially the educated youth in urban and rural areas.

India is one of those countries who are affected most by increasing population. The government and the people should keep this in sight. Measures have to be taken to plan the growth rate. At the same time perspective manpower planning is of paramount need keeping in view our economic resources, pace of development and the employment opportunities. This is a national problem and should be viewed as such by all sections of the people.

He have continued to strive for peace, disarmament and cooperation with all countries. Our actions are based on principles of non-alignment and the Charter of the United Nations. We have made special efforts to strengthen multilateral cooperation among the countries of our region. The establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a step in this direction. The high-level dialogue between the leaders of USSR and USA, which has been opened recently, is also a hopeful sign. I hope it will help to ease tension and the threat of nuclear confrontation. I also hope that the steps taken by our government to normalise relations with Pakistan and to help in finding a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka will bear fruit soon.

The continued policy of racial discrimination in South Africa is still a black spot on the face of the human race. I do hope there will soon be light after the dark tunnel.

Our defence forces deserve the nation's appreciation for performing the onerous task of guarding our borders as well as assisting the people in natural calamities like floods and cyclones. Keeping with the needs of the time they have increased their professional skills and efficiency and are always vigilant to defend the country from any possible external threat. Their welfare merits the nation's continued attention.

With these words, I conclude by appealing to all of you, my countrymen, to maintain the nation's unity, cherish and preserve our cultural values and contribute our best to the fulfilment of the nation's commitment to secularism, socialism and democracy. Jai Hind [hail India].

Official Spokesman on Verdict in Hijacking Trial

BK221601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] India is awaiting details of the Lahore court judgment in the trial of the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane to know the reasons for the acquital of four of them. Stating this, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today the government has noted with satisfaction that the hijackers were tried and sentenced according to the provisions of the Pakistani law.

Swedish Prime Minister Leaves Delhi 23 January

BK230411 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, left New Delhi for Sweden early this morning after a 5-day stay in India. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan.

Commentary on Nonaligned View of Nuclear Testing

BK201423 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Commentary by political commentator Desu Krishnamurti entitled "NAM [Nonaligned Movement] Proposals on Nuclear Test"]

[Text] The latest Soviet gesture in accepting a nonaligned proposal to ban nuclear weapon tests not only in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater but also underground, may not sound very significant in the welter of proposals and counterproposals flying between Moscow and Washington in the interest of peace and disarmament. The Soviet Union has also extended its unilateral test freeze by another 3 months. But neither India nor the Nonaligned Movement, of which it is still the chairman, is likely to underestimate the value of such an acceptance by Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The nonaligned states are unanimous in the view that each step taken toward disarmament could provide new funds to increase the quality of living in the developing world.

The history of nonaligned initiatives in regard to disarmanent apart, one of the very first things that Mr Rajiv Gandhi did as India's young prime minister, was to give a new thrust to the Nonaligned Movement as the biggest peace movement in the world. The latest 3 months saw stepped up campaigns by Mr Gandhi in the cause of disarmament. Those efforts were in the context of the declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers at Luanda in September on the urgent need for moratorium on nuclear tests. On his return trip from Nassau summit, Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited the Hague on the eve of the installation of cruise missiles in the Netherlands and later made an unscheduled halt at Moscow to hold wide ranging talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on global issues, particularly disarmament.

With the Geneva summit only a few weeks away then, it was widely believed at that time that consultations between the Soviet and Indian leaders would be very useful because Mr Rajiv

Gandhi had met Mr Ronald Reagan just a couple of days before and had acquired an insight into the U.S. President's thinking on the issues that would figure at Geneva. Three-weeks after this meeting with Mr Gorbachev came the major 6-nation nonaligned initiative on nuclear tests. They proposed a 12-month moratorium, offering to monitor all underground tests by installing sensitive devices on test sites of the superpowers to ensure its strict observance.

Previous proposals for a nuclear weapon test freeze fell through because an effective and mutually acceptable way of verifying of such a freeze could not be found by the superpowers. This initiative was a followup of the summit meeting of the six nations held in New Delhi around this time last year. While the Soviet Union had already announced a unilateral test freeze till January 86, the Americans maintained that such a moratorium was not possible because it could not be monitored.

The 6-nation Delhi declaration had said, and I quote: "The problems of verifying the suspension we propose are difficult but not insurmountable. Third party verifications could provide a high degree of certainty that testing programs have ceased. We propose to establish verification mechanisms on our territories to achieve this objective." When the move was first made in May 1984, it generated a lot of enthusiasm and was blessed by the pope. Nearly 150 congressmen and senators met the President Reagan in support of it. The impact of the 6-nation Delhi declaration in January last was even greater.

But the latest nonaligned initiative coming soon after Nassau and just before Geneva was no surprise. Moscow has already formally committed itself to stop all tests unilaterally for almost 5 months ending 1 January 1986 and for as long thereafter as the United States refrain from testing. Predictably, Mr Gorbachev's latest offer is only a reaffirmation of Moscow's earlier pledge. It now extends this test moratorium by another 3 months.

The new and serious overtures from Moscow about halting, which are exactly reversing the arms race, must evoke a matching response from Washington. A test ban treaty is long overdue and would be a historic step forward to bringhten the prospects of nuclear disarmament. The conclusion of a comprehensive treaty could add to the pressure on France and China who have carried atmospheric tests already.

More recently, Moscow reiterated Gorbachev's commitment to no testings of nuclear weapons and his willingness to carry out mutual reductions up to 50 percent in the superpower arsenals. Washington still adheres to its no testings doctrine. Just now the Kremlin offer is conditional till it is close to a permanent commitment because wt is continually being extended. President Reagan will do well to make a beginning by accepting the Soviet offer, and if he so desires, put to test the substance of Soviet offers.

Haryana Strike Call Evokes 'Mixed Response'

BK230746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] In Haryana, the rasta roko [road blockade] and the bund [strike] call given by the 4-party Sangharsh Samiti [struggle committee] has evoked mixed response. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, while the bund was almost complete at Rohtak and a few other places, it was partial in the rest of the state. Most of the vehicular traffic remained off the road as Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh States transport authorities have decided to suspend bus services in the state.

The spokesman said no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state. The Haryana government has made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order. Eighty companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed at strategic places. A police spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that about 500 preventive arrests have been made throughout the state.

Voilence Flares Up in Ahmadabad; Curfew Imposed

BK221241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Four persons lost their lives and eight were injured in renewed violence in the Kalupur and Dariapur areas in Ahmadabad this afternoon. In the violence which suddenly erupted after 18 days, several incidents of stabbing and stone throwing are reported. According to the city police control, the situation is tense but under control. Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in all the areas under the Kalupur police station from 1400 this afternoon.

Situation 'Tense But Under Control'

BK230314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] In Ahmadabad, peace prevailed in the Kalupur and Dariapur areas, which witnessed sudden disturbance yesterday. The situation is still tense but under control. Meanwhile, adequate police force has been deployed in the areas under indefinite curfew since yesterday afternoon.

Bomb Explosion in Mosque Kills 1, Injures 5

HK230056 Hong Kong AFP in English 0027 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 22 (AFP) — A time bomb exploded in the bathroom of a mosque in the village of Gandahab yesterday killing one person and wounding five others, official sources said today. They believed the bomb has planted by some "saboteur" from neighbouring Afghanistan. The bomb went off when people were coming to the mosque for noon prayers. In a similar incident two days ago one person died and 14 others were wounded.

5 Reported Dead in Airline Office Bomb Blast

HK231242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP) — Five people died and two dozen were injured today, many of them seriously, when a huge bomb blast ripped through the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) office at Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan today, witnesses and hospital sources reported. Reports reaching here said the bomb was planted in the ticketing section of the PIA building which was one of the biggest office complexes in the cantonment area.

The blast during the morning rush hour at 11.00 AM (0600 GMT) set the entire building ablaze and a pall of thick black smoke engulfed the whole area hampering rescue operations, the sources said. Fire fighters struggled for three hours to bring the blaze under control. But sources in Peshawar said the major part of the building, including all PIA facilities and its cargo section were gutted. The impact of the blast was felt several kilometres (miles) away.

The bomb was the biggest in the wave which has gripped the border town since the beginning of this month. Several casualties have been reported in at least half a dozen bomb explosions in and around Peshawar this week.

No arrests have been made so far, but official sources believe the Afghan secret service KHAD is involved, in a bid to harass a population which is sheltering about two million Afghan refugees and several resistance guerrilla groups.

Police have identified as Soviet-made several unexploded bombs and stores of explosive material seized earlier.

This is the first time that an important government run agency office has been made [a] target of the blast. Past attacks were confined to the refugee concentration areas and the offices of rebel groups. Several banks and other offices rented in the building were also damaged in today's blast.

Two years ago at least six Afghan mujahidin died in an explosion at the Hezb-e Eslami group's main office. As a result Pakistani authorities expelled all rebel organisations from the town, shifting their offices to outlying suburbs.

Most of those injured today were PIA staff. Officials have so far confirmed two deaths while unofficial count was five dead and 24 wounded.

President Inaugurates Narcotics Control Conference

BK221440 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan's commitment for the eradication of the drug abuse not only within the country but also outside its frontiers is total and unqualified. He was inaugurating in Islamabad today the third interpol conference of heads of national drug control services in the Gulf area.

The president said as an Islamic country Pakistan is against the production, sale, and use of all intoxicants, including opium and heroin, and considers it its moral duty to eradicate this menace. He asked the participants of the conference to evolve measures firstly on the international front, and secondly on the internal front. He also suggested the formation of a cooperative council of the heads of national drugs control services to adopt tactical measures against this menace and to review the progress periodically. There should also be an expeditious exchange of information through a communication network to provide information about drug traffickers.

Referring to the measures taken by the Pakistan Government in controlling this menace, the president said the production of opium has been brought down to 40 tons as against 800 tons. He said there were 3 million addicts in Pakistan and it is the joint responsibility of the law enforcing agencies, the medical profession, the parents, and every member of the society to make everyone alive to this menace.

PAKISTAN TIMES Comments on Ties With Iran

GF221329 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Closer Bonds"]

[Text] The three-day visit of Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Pakistan has given the lie to the propaganda of vested interests that Pak-Iran ties are not as close as they were in the past. The visit has proved beyond doubt that relations between the two countries are as warm as ever and even closer, given the similar security concerns facing them and the new ideological direction that their polities have been given in the past few years.

Iran and Pakistan are equally affected by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and both are unanimous in the stand that a solution to the problem lies in the unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops there.

Similarly, the leaderships in both countries have made a conscious decision to reorder their societies in the light of the teachings of the Koran and Sunna. These affinities could not but create stronger ties between the two peoples, and President Khamene'i's visit came as a concrete evidence of that. The very fact that the Iranian president chose to visit Pakistan on his first foreign tour after re-election speaks volumes for his and Iranian people's feelings for Pakistan. As for the sentiment here for our Iranian brethren, it was eloquently expressed by the enthusiastic

reception accorded to the Iranian president wherever he went during his tour of Pakistan.

The formal talks held between the two sides revealed a complete identity of views on the regional and international issues that came under discussion. Underlining the success of the visit, the Iranian president described it as excellent and noted that the two countries "share common stances and views on international issues and wish to expand their cooperation in economic, political and cultural fields".

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i also came out in full support of the Pakistani stand that the present Kabul regime did not represent the Afghan people and that in any eventual solution they should be conceded the right to decide their future. Both sides also agreed to work together for the stability of the region and co-operate in efforts to strengthen the unity of the Islamic ummah.

On bilateral relations the two leaders reviewed the progress made so far and expressed satisfaction over it. In this context a number of far-reaching decisions have been taken to give greater depth and dimension to two-way cooperation. The three committees set up at the level of the foreign ministers to submit reports in the fields of economic cooperation, agricultural and rural development and cultural collaboration have made specific recommendations. The two countries have also signed a protocol on cultural, educational and sports exchanges.

Similarly placed in relation to regional security concerns and facing common problems in the international sphere, Pakistan and Iran have everything to gain by forging closer bonds in economic, commercial and cultural fields. The Iranian president's visit and the accords that have resulted from it should give bilateral relations exactly the kind of momentum they require for speedier growth in the days to come.

DAWN Reports Entry of Soviets in Khyber Agency

GF221409 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jan 86 p 14

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 19: Sources close to Afghan mujahidin have claimed that about 400 Russian officers and soldiers have entered Pakistan's tribal area in collusion with Malik Wali Khan Kukikhel and his followers.

According to these sources, the group of 400 stationed at Jalalabad and Afghan Torkan entered Pakistan on Jan 11 with Kukikhel's men via Goroko and then dispersed all over Tirah and other places in Khyber Agency.

The sources said the famous tribal affairs expert Gen. Sakharov is "handling the operation" with headquarters at Jalalabad. He is monitoring the events in tribal areas of Pakistan while tribal insurgents who recently fled to Afghanistan have been despatched in different parts of Afghanistan to participate in anti-mujahidin activities under Russian command.

About 400 of these tribesmen are already involved in such activities in Helmand Province while another 2,000 have been armed by the Russians, says a mujahidin press release.

French To Discuss Nuclear Reprocessing Plant Sale

GF201007 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Islamabad (special correspondent) — A high-ranking French delegation will arrive in Pakistan on 11 February under the leadership of the secretary general of the Ministry of Energy. The delegation will hold talks on the sale of a nuclear reprocessing plant. During their 2-day stay in Pakistan they will call on President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo.

Pakistan signed an agreement with the previous French regime for the sale of a nuclear reprocessing plant, but that agreement could not be implemented because of international pressure on France. France attached some very difficult conditions to the sale and Pakistan could not accept them. The agreement, therefore, was shelved for years, but talks with the French authorities on the subject continued on various levels.

After the Fes conference Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan held talks with the French foreign minister in connection with the sale, and the visit of the French delegation to Pakistan will follow up those talks. The delegation will include some high-ranking officials in the French Ministry of External Relations.

Neutral observers in Islamabad have expressed the hope that France and Pakistan will work out a mutually acceptable formula under which France will be able to sell the reprocessing plant to Pakistan. These observers believe that the peaceful nuclear policy of Pakistan has been accepted at the international level. Moreover, international pressure on France has also weakened in face of the growing energy needs of Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

Striking Jute Mill Workers Hold Demonstration

HK221314 Hong Kong AFP in 1238 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 22 (AFP) — Several thousand striking jute mill workers today demonstrated outside the headquarters here of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), trade union sources said. The protesters were among nearly a quarter million jute workers on strike since December 28 at 48 of the 69 BJMC-controlled mills, demanding higher wages and benefits. Sources in the jute mill workers' trade union told reporters similar demonstrations were held in other Bangladesh industrial towns today. There was no official confirmation of the numbers involved in today's protest.

Officials said that despite the strike call, at least 26 jute mills were functioning normally. Observers said this appeared to be with the help of pro-government trade unions.

Jute accounts for nearly 60 percent of the country's export earnings and observers here said the continuing strike in the industry might adversely affect the economy. Efforts towards a negotiated settlement have so far failed and the jute workers' unions have resolved to continue the strike until their demands were fully met.

SRI LANKA

British National Abducted by Tamil Guerrillas

BK231109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] A major Tamil guerrilla group said yesterday it had detained a 50-year old British woman in northern Sri Lanka on suspicion of her working for a foreign intelligence agency. In a telephone call to REUTER, a spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students — EROS — said the woman identified herself as Penelope Willis and said she was a journalist but did not give the name of a news organization.

According to a police report reaching Colombo, the woman who had sought and obtained a night lodging at St Peter's Church, Mullaitivu, had been seen in a car driven in the direction of Paddiruppu. She was accompanied by five armed terrorists, one of whom was riding on the hood of the car. He was carrying a machinegun. They were now interrogating her and if they find her not involved, they would release her.

Parliament Votes To Extend State of Emergency

BK231351 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Parliament today approved by a two-thirds majority a motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month. One hundred and twenty five members voted in favor of the extension, while the MP for Homagama, Sarath Muttetuyegama, voted against. Members of the SLKFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] and the MEP [Mahjana Eksath Peramuan] abstained.

Soldier Killed in Tamil Attack on Patrol

HK231002 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 23 (AFP) — One soldier was killed when militant Tamil separatists attacked an Army patrol in northern Jaffna today, security sources here said. High ranking security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that a helicopter was also hit and one airman wounded when militants opened fire on it in Tellipallai in the Jaffna Peninsula today.

The Army patrol was carrying out an operation when it came under the small arms fire which killed one soldier, they said. The militants also fired on the helicopter which arrived when air support was summoned, hitting the pilot who then flew the chopper back to base. The pilot suffered minor injuries, sources said.

Today's death brings the toll of security forces personnel killed this year to 15, according to the official count.

President Seeks India's Cooperation To End Terrorism

BK221113 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Jayewardene has expressed the hope that the menance of terrorism in Sri Lanka would be over in 3 months if the Indian Government extended its support to the Government of Sri Lanka. In an interviw with India's *HINDU* newspaper, Mr Jayewardene reiterated that although the government wanted a political solution to the problem, it could not have a political solution with terrorists. However, he made it clear that the terrorists should be unconditionally pardoned if they laid down their arms.

Mr Jayewardne also said that he would go to India where leading terrorist groups have officers in Madras to talk to them if he were assured that they were giving up violence.

Commentary Reviews Latest Developments in PDRY

GF230718 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jan 86

[From the "Pause With the Events" program]

[Text] Nearly 10 days have elapsed since the outbreak of bloody fighting in the PDRY and the situation remains engulfed in uncertainty. Daily reports by international news agencies have heightened this uncertainly. While one news agency reports that the situation is returning to normal, at the same time another reports bloody clashes. However, these reports indicate one thing for certain, namely, that the situation in the PDRY continues to be tense and what will happen next cannot be predicted.

Casualty reports strengthen the belief that the clashes are fierce. News agencies report that more than 9,000 people have been killed or wounded. The continuation of these clashes is causing anxiety in neighboring countries, especially the YAR which fears the fighting may spread into its territory. In general, the latest reports coming from Aden indicate that the killing and destruction in the PDRY is continuing. Kuwait radio reported that the ships of Western countries which were docking at Aden port to evacuate foreign nationals from Aden have halted their rescue operations.

Proceeding from its desire to prevent the bloodshed of Muslims, the Islamic Republic has called for an immediate end to the fighting in this country and for stopping the shedding of blood of its people. In its communique which was issued on Tuesday to this effect, the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is perfectly willing to offer whatever assistance it can to end the fighting in the PDRY. The Red Crescent Society in Iran has contacted the PDRY Red Crescent and declared its readiness to dispatch necessary supplies to aid the wounded.

Reportage, Commentary on President's Afro-Asian Tour

Absence From Banquet Approved

LD221156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Excerpt] During today's Guardians' Council session, council secretary Safi praised President Khamene'i in connection with the banquet held in Zimbabwe in his honor and his refusal to attend due to anti-religious and anti-Islamic programs. Safi said: This represents Islamic stances and the loyalty of officials of this regime to Islamic precepts. It gives pride to all Muslims and is a warning to those heads of regimes in Islamic countries who do not feel obliged to obey Islamic standards.

Concludes Zimbabwe Visit, Departs

LD221101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Khamene'i and his entourage departed Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, for Tehran this morning. They were formally seen off by the president and prime minister of Zimbabwe. According to this report, high-ranking party members, Cabinet members, and foreign ambassadors to Zimbabwe attended the ceremonies. Following the two countries' official anthems our country's president was seen off by the president of Zimbabwe.

It must be noted that President Khamene'i held several meetings with the Zimbabwean president and prime minister during his stay in that country. The efforts of various committees in the commercial, technical, and oil fields headed by the foreign minister led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

Returns to Tehran

LD221748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who has visited a number of Afro-Asian countries leading a delegation of high-ranking political, military and economic officials, returned to Tehran today at the conclusion of his 10-day visit to Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, and his meetings with those countries' presidents and high-ranking authorities. At Mehrabad Airport the president of the Republic was welcomed by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad; the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; a number of ministers; a group of members of the Majlis Presidium; members of the Majlis; commanders of the three armed services of the Islamic Republic of Iran; a group of high-ranking military officials; the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq; and ambassadors of foreign countries to Iran.

During his tour the president of the Republic had talks with the presidents of Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe on the problems of Afghanistan and Palestine, support for Islamic liberation movements, the struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon, the need for unity to confront the expansionist policies of the arrogant powers, the strengthening of the Zimbabwe common front against racism and the Nonaligned Movement.

Terms Tour 'Satisfactory'

LD221906 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran Jan. 22, IRNA — Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Wednesday after a ten-day Afro-Asian countries tour. He was welcomed at Tehran Mehrabad Airport by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and other ranking Iranian officials. The president's ten-day tour took him to Pakistan, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In an interview with IRNA at the Airport, President Khamene'i described his tour as "satisfactory" and said that the Iranian delegation which accompanied him on his tour signed three protocols with Pakistan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and reached some agreements with Angola and Mozambique.

On the objective of his visit to these states, President Khamene'i termed it "a measure to expand relations between Iran and these countries as well as to establish a strong Islamic Republic of Iran

presence with the African Frontline States in their fight against the apartheid South African regime." The president said that detailed discussions were held on aggressive role of the racist South African regime in his meetings with the frontline heads of states.

On bilateral cooperation with the countries he visited the president said that Iran and Pakistan have many common causes, the most important being their friendly relations which were further expanded by his visit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran prefers to promote its economic and political relations with African countries especially those fighting the South African apartheid regime which President Khamene'i said was a measure to step up the anti-apartheid struggle against the South African Government and as a source of help for African countries.

On the geo-political impact of his tour the president said that the massive reception of people and the governments of the countries visited by him has disappointed the global arraogance which is always trying to isolate Iran.

Submits Report to Khomeyni

LD231124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in a meeting with Imam Khomeyni today submitted a report to the Imam of the Islamic Nation on his visits to Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe.

Comments on Tour

LD230123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Remarks by Iranian President Khamene'i to unidentified Tehran radio correspondent on his return to Tehran from tour of Pakistan and the Frontline States on 22 January; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My trip to Pakistan was concerned with bilateral relations and the exchange of views on problems of mutual interest. Naturally we have many problems which are of interest to us and Pakistan because of our geographical location and our immense historical and cultural ties, particularly as we are friends with both the Pakistani Government and nation. In other words, the issue of our relations with that nation constitutes a separate and extremely important chapter which was the center of our attention during this visit.

During this visit we met both high-ranking officials of the Pakistani Government and the Pakistani nation. We had talks with them. We had meetings with ulema from all over Pakistan. We made speeches to the people. In other words, the relations which we enjoy with Pakistan are of a dual nature: with its government and with its nation. Of course, the Pakistani Government also fully cooperated with us and helped us to meet with the people and speak to them. I made a speech in Lahore in the presence of Pakistani Government officials which was repeatedly broadcast on both radio and television, thereby providing us with all the facilities for our intellectual communication with the people.

As I have said, there are a great many joint problems which we and the Pakistani Government share and these necessitate closer links. Pakistan is a great neighbor; it is an Islamic country and its people's beliefs are very strong. The interest in Islamic problems in Pakistan's general climate as a whole, whether on the government or national level, is very intense. All this necessitates close ties, so we acted accordingly. God willing! Our relations will improve markedly after this trip. We have had talks on trade exchanges, technical issues, and cultural problems. Agreements were signed, a memorandum of understanding was also signed, and another agreement was signed by the foreign ministers. So this is what the visit to Pakistan was like.

As to the Frontline States, apart from problems related to bilateral relations which were of secondary importance, the main problem discussed was that of the struggle against the apartheid regime, and the racism and oppression imposed by South Africa. This extremely oppressive and vicious regime is considered to be one of the fundamental links of world arrogance in this region.

During this trip in the extensive and all-round meetings we had with the leaders of these countries, we explained our views, analyses, and opinions on South Africa and its role in carrying out the needs of world arrogance and in weakening all the nations of Africa, not only the South African people. We explained all these views to them and declared that we are prepared to cooperate with them on this issue. They ardently welcomed this and felt that Iran and the Islamic revolution constitutes the ultimate strategic depth [as heard] in the struggle against the racist South African regime. They were extremely hopeful about the moral, political, and all-round support from our country. Of course, they all knew and admitted that in this struggle, we have always stood in the frontlines on political issues, international assemblies, and at a global level. Of course, we talked extensively about these issues and obtained very good results from these discussions. But bilateral relations are also important with these countries on two accounts: First, these countries are in the frontline of the movement of struggle against the South African regime. In Angola, for instance, as you may be aware, a large expanse of several thousand kilometers of Angolan territory is occupied by the South African regime; Namibia is completely under occupation; Mozambique is constantly under threat; and even in Zimbabwe which has a relatively stable and better situation, Mr Mugabe, its leaders and other admitted that they are under threat from various kinds of intrusions by the South African regime.

Well, these countries form the frontlines of the movement, and if we can strengthen them through our commercial relations and other bilateral relations, then we would be making an effective contribution to the struggle against the South African regime. Second, we have given priority in the general policy of the Islamic Republic's Government to commercial exchanges with oppressed countries. This means that we are willing to sell our oil to those who are very much in need of this oil and are oppressed; that we

will sell the goods we produce to these kinds of states; and that we should definitely buy their goods — these are among our priorities and we intend to implement them. We would prefer to buy for instance, commodities produced in Mozambique, Tanzania, or Zimbabwe and not from a European country or perhaps a wealthy country which may not really need our help. If we buy locally produced goods directly from the countries concerned then the benefits will go directly to their peoples. These are nations that have become independent only recently and are constantly under pressures from the military, political, and all-round intrusions of the South African regime. They must be helped. Therefore, commercial relations — indeed bilateral relations as a whole, whether commercial, technical, political, or cultural — with these states, in addition to assisting in the struggle against the South African regime, will actually help those states themselves. This is one of our duties, and we declare this everywhere. They warmly welcomed this policy. These were the objectives and the programs we had during this trip.

Of course, I myself had many meetings, as did Dr Velayati with his counterparts. Also, in all these countries various committees were set up to discuss the matters at hand. With three out of five of the main countries of this trip — those three countries with which we have more extensive dealings — that is, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, we signed letters of understanding with good results. In the other two countries we reached mutual understanding on many items. There you have an outline of the programs of the trip.

You asked about the media coverage of our trip. During the trip we did not have much time or opportunity to examine the world's coverage and what was reported and how; you probably followed it more eagerly and know more; people here probably know more. Yet on the whole, it was felt that our presence in Africa was seen as a message of hope for the people of southern Africa — especially the Muslims in those regions. They were jubilant at the fact that a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran notices them, considers their problems important and also sympathetic to them. Of course, I do not have much information from within southern Africa itself and cannot say what effect our tour had on them, but as far as we gathered from those people who were (?informed) about South Africa and came from there, I know that there was extensive nedia coverage. Last night we gave an all-media interview in Zimbabwe and said quite clearly — I said: I am declaring right now, from behind the walls and borders of southern Africa, that the people and government of the Islamic Republic are standing beside these oppressed people who are being trampled upon under by the South African regime. We are defending you, supporting you, and we condemn your enemy. This certainly had a strong, psychological impact on the people of that region. The same could be said for the people of Pakistan, that is, the people of Pakistan received us and dealt with us like our own people: In the same way that the people of our country express kindness, enthusiasm and excitement toward those in charge of the country, the Pakistanis were also affected in the same way. All these things have a negative effect on the morale of the policies of world arrogance. We can sense that those who would like to see the Islamic Republic of Iran take a a back seat in the various arenas of world politics are certainly not very happy and some of the news that reached us from the circles of world arrogance confirmed this.

Majlis Speaker Meets Military Officials, Teachers

LD201137 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA — The Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said here Sunday that the "ten-day dawn" ceremonies, marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, "will be the time to show our power". Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani was speaking to a group of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the officials in charge of the maneuver of the Basij (Mobilization) forces during the ten-day dawn.

The Majlis speaker talked about the high number of people volunteering to join Karbala caravans to fight against the Iraqi forces.

On vicious acts of enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that it would be naive to think that Iraq has run out of missiles or has dropped the idea of raiding the Iranian cities due to shortage of planes. Rather, he added, those who have been encouraging Saddam to carry out such attacks, have finally realised that all these actions are futile. The enemies have understood, he told the visitors, that no weapon or power could stand against the will of the Iranians and none of these actions will weaken determination of committed people of Iran.

On mobilization of people in Karbala caravans, he said that formation of these caravans made the enemy to refrain from further attacking our cities and economic centers. The least effect of the Karabala caravans, he said, was halting vicious acts of the enemy.

More on the effects of the Karbala caravans, he said that the enemy in future will realize that these volunteers who have joined the caravans will stay with them until the achievement of final result.

Rafsanjani who is also the special representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council, said that the unprecedented number of people joining the caravans has frightened the enemy. The enemy knows that there is no end to the power of the Iranian forces and no limit to the number of volunteers. The whole nation is behind the volunteers, he stressed.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting with representatives of teachers from throughout the country, here Sunday evening, the Majlis speaker talked about the Islamic values which have become popular among the youth in post-revolutionary period. He described the trend as excellent and said great steps have been taken in this respect.

He further told the visitors that the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran have admitted the success of the Islamic revolution in transforming the society and replacing the old corrupt values with supreme principles of Islam.

Revival of Islamic values has frightened the Zionist regime which is faced with spread of Islamic ideology in occupied Palestine. The same principles in Lebanon have given momentum to the strrggle of the Lebanese Muslims and motivated by such aspirations, a soldier in Egypt undermines the Camp David accord.

At the end he told the teachers that a great responsibility rested on their shoulders. He urged them to make further efforts to cleanse the society from the ills which were introduced to the Iranian society under the previous regime, and also prevent their return.

Musavi Addresses Police Graduation Ceremony

LD182353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 86

[Excerpts] A graduation ceremony marking the end of the 38th course of the Police Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held in the presence of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. During the ceremony, the prime minister listened to the progress report and then inspected the units positioned in the grounds.

Mr Musavi made a speech in which he elaborated on the duties of the police and their role in society. He said: The only regime in the Third World that has revolted against colonialist powers, that has not aligned itself with any of the superpowers, and that has stood up to the bullying and oppression of these powers is the Islamic Republican regime. The prime minister referred to the fact that the security of reactionary countries, which are dependent on Zionism, imperialism, and the East or the West, is maintained by the superpowers and colonialists. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country whose national security is protected by the children of the nation and which relies on the popular forces. He added: Today, the children of this nation defend the honor and wealth of the country and do not accept the agreements reached by the superpowers in secret. They have become models for humanity and the deprived and oppressed nations.

At the end of this ceremony, participating units paraded in front of the holy Koran, a picture of the imam of the nation, the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and those present on the rostrum.

Tehran Views 'Netback' Pricing As Test for OPEC

GF211003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Commentary by the Research Group of the Central News Unit: "OPEC Facing a Dangerous Test"]

[Text] Contrary to the predictions of oil circles and the tradition of the world oil market, it seems that this year is not a good one for oil exporting countries, especially OPEC members. The oil market is not the satisfactory condition.

Despite being the cold season, during the past few weeks we have witnessed worrying developments in the international oil market. The downward trend of prices, which started more or less after the 76th OPEC meeting, has picked up speed noticeably since the start of the current new Gregorian year. According to reports received on Friday, 17 January, on the spot commodity market in Europe, the price for Brent crude oil from the North Sea due to be delivered in March dropped to $21 per barrel. This kind of oil sold for about $27 per barrel at this time last year.

The significant decline in the prices of various types of North Sea crude affects some OPEC members, who have similar types of oil, and has caused a slight drop in the prices of oil from the Persian Gulf. On Friday, 17 January, Saudi light crude fell to $27.20 per barrel, which was a slight decline compared to prices of the previous few weeks. In the midst of this, oil analysts believe that with a decline in oil prices to this extent, especially during the cold season, it is very probable that prices will fall even further in March and April.

Despite the obvious elements such as a mild winter in the northern hemisphere, high strategic stockpiles of oil in the West, and the lesser demand for oil from the major oil refiners in the world, which have all had their share in the creation of this state of affairs in the present oil market, there are other important factors that have to be taken into consideration.

One ox these important factors is more-than-necessary production by OPEC members and other oil exporting countries in the world. According to various reports, there is currently a surplus of 3.3 million barrels per day of oil on the market. This comes at a time when it was believed the market was only faced with a 2-million-barrels-per-day surplus. In its latest issue the OPEC News Bulletin announced the organization's oil production to be some 17.6 million barrels per day during December and January. Of course, this figure is in addition to 1.35 million barrels per day of liquid natural gas.

Taking into consideration the slight rise in the production levels of some oil exporting countries, it has been announced that at the beginning of the present Gregorian year, 1986, Saudi Arabia raised its normal production quota by a significant amount. According to REUTER, Saudi oil production in the first week of January was 6 million barrels per day, and the Zionist regime ruling Iraq was also producing extra oil through its new oil pipeline. In connection with this development, that is, the rise in production in general and the deviations from OPEC regulations by its members, OPEC has been faced with some problems. In reality, it has never managed to solve these issues. But what is certain is that OPEC must immediately make a decision with regard to its members' overproduction. Otherwise OPEC itself will cause a further decline in the prices.

The announcement of a reduction in prices from some non-OPEC producers, such as Mexico, Oman, and Egypt has also had an effect on the present situation in the world oil market. Egypt has lowered its prices by $1.00-1.35 per barrel, and Mexico has reduced its prices by $1.00 per barrel since the first of January. Venesuela, which is an OPEC member, has also reduced its prices for heavy crude. But according to most analysts, the major cause of the current chaos in the world oil market is the rise in oil-sale contracts with OPEC members based on the recovered oil prices.

Comtracts based on recovered oil prices, which are called netbacks in international terminology, are in reality the net value recovered from the refining of one barrel of crude oil, which is mostly made up of the difference between the value of the unrefined product and the collection of the expenses from transportation, insurance, refinery costs, etc. In other words, when people say sales according to netback, it means the basis

on which each barrel of crude oil is priced depends on the price of the products on that particular day, for example on the Rotterdam market.

In general, the netback price is $3.00-4.00 less than the contract prices of the spot commodities market.

Up until a couple of years ago, the recovered price was only the basis for determining the quality of the various types of crude oil in the world. Since then, however, some new contracts have been based on the recovered price, and with the spreading of this practice gradually oil sales based on recovered prices were presented to the oil market as a new method of transactions. This has reached the point that now a major percentage of world oil sales are based on this method.

The spreading of transactions based on recovered prices is in reality a dangerous test for OPEC. The pricing policy for various types of oil products in the world is now up to the oil companies because most of the world's refineries belong to them. Therefore OPEC's tendency to depend on sales based on recovered prices has in effect taken control of pricing throughout the world out of OPEC's hands and has given that control to the international oil companies. Under these circumstances, it is the oil cartels that decide OPEC's prices.

In general terms, a sale in accordance with recovered prices means more discounts for the customers because, as mentioned before, the recovered oil prices, within the past few years, have always been lower than the formal and spot market commodity prices.

The most important factor in the spreading of sales in accordance with recovered prices in the past few months has unfortunately been OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia. Following the significant drop in its production, Saudi Arabia decided to bring its production levels to its OPEC quota, but was confronted at the time with confusion in the oil market. This is why it started selling its oil based on recovered prices. It even suggested that OPEC accept this system. Saudi is now selling some 2 million barrels of oil based on recovered prices. Also, the regime ruling Iraq is busy negotiating with French companies to consolidate netback contracts.

Under such circumstances, one must warn OPEC members that the spreading of oil sales based on recovered prices will have more pronounced effects in the long run than in a short period. If OPEC accepts this pricing policy formally, there will no longer be a need for such an organization. Was OPEC not supposed to control prices and have a hand in the pricing system for oil in the world? Was this not why it was created in the first place? In any case, with regard to what has been said, the situation of the world oil market is very worrisome. If something drastic is not done, a price war and a significant drop in oil prices will be certain.

Therefore oil analysts are waiting for the decisions of OPEC's special committee meeting which is supposed to start 2 weeks from now in Vienna. During its 76th session OPEC asked this committee to find ways to prevent a lessening of OPEC's role in the market. But until it becomes clear what methods and means this committee will use to achieve its goal, one cannot give a concrete opinion on its role.

Discussions Held With Japan on Oil, Industrial Ties

LD221740 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 22, IRNA — Japan's ambassador to Tehran Yutaka Nomura discussed issues of bilateral interest with Iran's commerce minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here Wednesday. The ambassador said that companies belonging to Japan's private sector are interested in expanding commercial relations with Iran. Japan is also interested in purchasing more Iranian oil, he added.

Commerce Minister Ja'fari expressed interest that Iran-Japan commercial relations would expand. Ja'fari said other than Japan's cooperation in implementing some projects in Iran, the country will purchase its necessary industrial goods from Japan.

Envoy to Libya Meets With Al-Turayki on Cooperation

LD220957 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jan. 22, IRNA — Libya's Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki here Tuesday stressed further expansion and deepening of cooperation of the three Muslim and progressive countries of Iran, Libya and Syria. Speaking in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, the Libyan official praised support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Libya vis-a-vis recent U.S. threats. He said that Iran's decisive stance, inspired by Islamic principles, further encouraged Libyan people to increase their resistance against plots of imperialism and Zionism.

Referring to the recent session of the foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization, Al-Turayki hailed the active role of the Iranian delegation in the meeting. He reiterated Libya's support for Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war and discussed with the Iranian ambassador matters of mutual interest, latest developments in the region, and the situation in South Yemen.

Ambassador to Hungary Says Ties Expanding

LD221135 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — The Iranian Ambassador to Budapest, Hungary, Ali Akbar Farazi, said here Wednesday that volume of trade between the two countries in post-revolution period has increased by five folds. Speaking in an interview, he added that relations between the two countries were expanding and added that the invitation extended to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi by Hungarian officials will further strengthen bilateral ties.

Farazi who is currently in Tehran, elaborating more on mutual ties said that the joint commission holds regular meetings in capitals of the two countries and the Iranian delegation to the commission is headed by the minister of agriculture, 'Ali 'Abbas Zali.

Iran and Hungary cooperate in the fields of agricultural technology, training agricultural personnel, fisheries, and other agricultural and industrial grounds. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, exports some one million barrels of oil to Hungary annually. Hungary also imports minerals, herbs and shoes from Iran.

Supreme Court President Holds Press Conference

LD201219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, Supreme Court president today took part in a press, radio, and tv conference and commented on the problems of the judicial branch, arable land, and the Islamization of laws. The Supreme Court president in this conference first pointed to reactions to the trip of President Khamene'i to Pakistan and several African countries and the unprecedented welcome extended by the people of these countries to him. He said: This trip showed that the Islamic revolution has been exported to points beyond the borders of our country and there is hope that in the near future, Third World and Islamic nations will stage a general uprising in order to fight against world oppression.

Referring to the efforts made by the judicial branch to Islamize laws and solve problems within this branch, Mr Musavi-Ardabili said: Unfortunately, one of our problems in the judicial branch is the problem of arable land. We hope that the laws the courts need will be passed by the majlis so that we can take steps to protect farmers.

He then pointed to the recent circular [that stipulates plaintiffs must reside in Iran] issued by the Supreme Judicial Council and the reasons behind it and said: Unfrotunately, in some cases we have seen that for example, a member of the Elqanian family [one of the influential and wealthy families in the previous regime] has filed a complaint against the Foundation for the Oppressed in connection with his illegal rights, or that someone who is being prosecuted by the court investigating cases under Article 49 of the Constitution has started procedures against an institution of the Islamic Republic in another court. We have repeatedly witnessed that lawyers have prepared petitions against a department, although their defendent has been a Taquti [a supporter of the former regime] who has not been in Iran at the time. In some isntances they have even won their cases in the absence of the defendent. Such issues gave rise to the abovementioned circular. He added: We have seen the positive reults of the circular since it was issued, so much so that some petitions which might have succeeded, have been withdrawn.

The Supreme Court president added: I should mention that the said circular also applies to petitions presented to courts before it was issued and are at present being processed. Even if the preliminary courts have issued their verdicts and the file is referred to the Supreme Court of the country, the Supreme Court should adjust the petition. In cases where even the Supreme Court has issued its verdict as well, the verdict should be implemented fully [as heard].

Mr Musavi-Ardabili finally replied to the questions put to him by correspondents about profiteering and steps taken by the judicial branch in this connection and about the presence of brothers from revolution committees on the borders to fight against smugglers.

Courts Confiscate Land, Investigate Profiteering

LD202152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Excerpts] This morning Naser Qavami, the head of the Islamic Revolution Courts of Justice for Economic and 49th Constitutional Principle Affairs, announced in an interview with the media that during the past 3 months the courts have issued confiscation orders for property worth more than 30 billion rials. The above had been uncovered in the course of investigations about 1,000 cases by the Islamic Revolution Courts of Justice. He then noted the issue of disused land adding: We are aware that a huge profit is made from the sale of land. The profit must be returned.

The head of the 49th Constitutional Principle Courts of Justice also added: Another point in view of the 49th principle is that of the huge wealth gained by the members of corrupt Free Masons Party [as heard]. The allegiance of these persons with foreigners is certain and they have not been investigated so far. He referred to investigations of bribery and extortion cases saying: The courts have been investigating such cases and already confiscated some property in this connection.

Supreme Judicial Council, Cabinet Hold Session

LD201234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Excerpt] At the joint session of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Cabinet held this morning, common issues facing the judicial and executive systems were discussed. At the end of the session, Mr Moqtada'i, a member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, said in an interview with correspondents: At this session antidrug operations, reports on the workings of the judicial system, conditions of the prisoners, and a report of statistics and discoveries [as heard] were discussed. Problems that have been hindering progress were also reviewed.

He also said that at this session various plans and suggestions were put forward, and it was decided that a joint supreme delegation, comprising two members from the Supreme Judicial Council, the prime minister, minister of information, minister of interior, and minister of justice, should be formed next week to study the plans and choose the most favorable one. He said this delegation will establish a headquarters to implement the plan; and, if need be, relevant bills will be drafted and presented to the Majlis.

The speaker of the Supreme Judicial Council said that relations between government departments and the administrative justice tribunal and verdicts issued by the tribunal regarding the reemployment of those who had been purged were also discussed at today's session. It was decided that a number of test cases should be referred to the council so that necessary steps can be taken.

Kurdish Operations in Iraq Reported

21 Jan Report

GF211952 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries attacked the Mahmud post on the Irbil-Mosul road in northern Iraq killing 12 of its Saddamist mercenaries and capturing their weapons. This was stated by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq information unit which said that a rescue force was sent to the area by the Zionist-Ba'thist authorities. The revolutionaries killed more mercenaries of the Saddam regime during clashes with the rescue force and destroyed 10 tanks of this regime.

Reports said that this attack was launched in retaliation for the recent shelling by the Iraqi regime forces of 100 housing units in the village of Khani, 10 km from al-Sulaymaniah.

22 Jan Report

GF221541 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] On 19 January, Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries belonging to the Hizballah Peshmerga attacked with medium-range weapons the Kardasur base belonging to the Saddam forces in the Mirgah Su-Diyanah axis, killing or wounding more than 15 members of the base. During this attack, they also destroyed several concentration points belonging to the 'Aflaqi regime ruling in Iraq.

Reports from Iraq state that during the past few days the Hizballah Peshmerga warded off with their anti-aircraft fire the aggressive regime's helicopters in the liberated zones of (Kers) and (Shuqrafa) heights, Shirin, and Baradust. These reports added that in the liberated zones, the Peshmerga and all of the tribal forces have been mobilized to thwart any attack that might be launched by the forces of the Zionist Ba'thist regime ruling in Iraq against the liberated villages and areas in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries warned the 'Aflaqi regime's mercenaries that they will shell their positions if they cooperate with the Saddam regime or participate in any operation against the liberated villages in northern Iraq.

Further Details

LD221810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish Muslim fighters in the township of Garmiau in northern Iraq ambushed and destroyed a number of vehicles belonging to the Saddam regime killing five of the passengers including three operatives of Saddam's security organization. According to a report published by *RAH-E KARBALA'* during the operations, 18 men also surrendered to the revolutionaries.

According to another report Iraqi Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries planted mines in the main Tuz Khurmatu highway and destroyed two Iraqi army military trucks and their passengers.

During the past week too the Kurdish Muslim fighters attacked the Dukan barracks in northern Iraq and inflicted heavy losses and casualties. During these operations large quantities of various types of weapons were captured by the Muslim forces.

Attack Last Week

GF221930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] The Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries carried out a number of operations in the city of Garmiyan, in northern Iraq, against the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq. The revolutionaries killed or wounded 11 members of those forces. Among those killed were three security men. This was reported by the publication *TARIQ KARBALA'*. The publication also stated that 18 members of the Saddamist regime surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries during this operation.

In other operations carried out by the Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries along the main Tuz Khurmatu road in northern Iraq, the revolutionaries destroyed two military trucks, killed five Saddamists, and captured one of the local mercenaries.

The Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries attacked Dukan military camp, in northern Iraq, last week. They killed or wounded a number of Saddamists. They also destroyed a number of vehicles and captured large amounts of arms and ammunition.

GDR Experts Helping Iraq in Chemical Research

LD221904 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 22 Jan 86

["Iraq Producing Lethal Chemicals to Exterminate Dissidents" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — With the assistance of East German experts, the Iraqi regime is reportedly trying to produce a brand of lethal chemical capable of killing its victims without leaving any objective symptoms on their bodies, according to the news bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) here Wednesday. The chemicals are said to be designed primarily for killing political dissidents in Iraq.

The SAIRI news bureau said that the Iraqi secret police-run institute Ibn al-Heitham, 30 kms from Baghdad, which is working under the cover of a pharmaceutical company, is working on the deadly chemical.

Following the recent publication of reports in Western press media and protest by various international circles on mass execution of Iraqi dissidents by the Baghdad government, the Iraqi regime has chosen a more sinister method of murder by poisoning, the news bureau said.

The SAIRI news bureau further outlined the mysterious death of anti-government people including that of the one-time Iraqi prime minister and later Baghdad's ambassador to Finland, Salih

Mehdi Ammash. The Finnish dailies published detailed reports on Ammash's death by poisoning. The Scandinavian dailies too, recently published reports on the poisoning of a 30-year-old Iraqi youth hospitalized in Stockholm, according to the news bureau.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,358

LD221611 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in Sumar, western fronts and a group of Iraqi patrols were subjected to Iranian artillery fire on Tuesday according to the communique number 2358 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran released Wednesday. The Iraqi patrols were forced to flee from the region.

On Tuesday Iran's Muslim combatants while checking Iraqi operations shelled their positions in the southern and north-western fronts Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, according to the communique.

Meanwhile, Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Khorramshahr and Abadan, both in Khuzestan Province, Tuesday caused small damage to some buildings in the two cities.

Tehran Reports Afghan Mujahidin Operations

GF220850 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have destroyed a tank and killed five troops of the Soviet forces in an operation in the (Agaman) area near Kabul.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have also attacked a base belonging to the Karmal regime's forces in Qandahar Province, killing 12 soldiers of the Babrak Karmal regime.

Other Operations

LD221852 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] London, Jan. 22, IRNA — Afghan freedom fighters repulsed two attacks of the Karmal troops in Qandahar Province as a result of which 18 mujahidin were martyred and 34 others were injured.

The agency Afghan press [as received] sources reported that the Soviet-Karmal troops launched an attack on the mujahidin's centre close to the sub divisional headquarters of Chehar Bagh on December 28.

As a result of the sudden attack the mujahidin commander Major Abdus Sattar was martyred while the centre's installations received a lot of damage. According to the report the Soviet Karmal troops were withdrawing when the mujahidin groups blocked their way and encircled them.

In the crossfire 30 Soviet Karmal's troops were killed or injured while 11 mujahids were martyred. In the clash two tanks were destroyed by rocket fire.

According to another report a contingent of Karmal militia launched an attack on a centre of Hizb-e Islami in Shurabak area on December 31 and as a result of the shelling six mujahids were martyred and 14 others were injured.

In the clash continuing the whole of the day the invading army fled away picking up 19 dead bodies and leaving behind wreckage of two vehicles.